

Appl. No. 09/683,667  
Amtd. dated March 13, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2005

**REMARKS**

This Amendment responds to the office action dated December 13, 2005.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495) (hereinafter Snipp).

Regarding claim 1, and claims dependent thereon, the examiner relies on Snipp (Figs. 6 & 7; col. 6, lines 26-30, 62-66; col. 7, lines 1-12) as disclosing the previously-claimed element of "selecting at least one of said at least one printer by comparing said printer data with parameters of said print task." Claim 1 has now been amended to qualify this step as "automatically selecting, with said local print system component, at least one of said plurality of printers." This amendment is effected to more particularly point out that this selection is performed automatically. This step is achieved without user intervention. This element is further qualified as selecting from a "plurality of printers." Hence, an automatic selection of a device from a set comprising a plurality of printers is made by comparing print task requirements with printer data to determine a match between a print task and a printer. A user does not make the printer selection.

Snipp, at the locations designated by the examiner, discloses a method wherein printer characteristics are stored as a data structure (Fig. 6; col. 6, lines 26-30). This method also stores print job characteristics as a data structure (Fig. 7; col. 6, lines 62-66; col. 7, lines 1-12). However, these characteristics are not stored or used to make an automatic printer selection. They are stored and used to manage printer resources, such as printer drivers, which are not installed on a client machine. Snipp does not disclose any method for making a printer selection, as claimed in claim 1. Snipp discloses only methods for printing to a printing device selected by

Appl. No. 09/683,667  
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a user. Snipp teaches, in the Abstract, "This point-and-print capability enables a *user to select* any of a number of available printers within the distributed environment via a *user interface* and then to have a document printed on the *selected printer*." Therefore, Snipp teaches away from automatic selection of a printing device by teaching an improved method of enabling *user selection* of printing devices while disclosing nothing about automatic selection of printing devices by a print system component or any other non-user entity. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be patentable in its currently-amended form.

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1, comprise all the limitations thereof and are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 11 has also been amended to comprise the element of "selecting, with said local print system component, at least one of said remote printing devices." This element is similar to the novel element described above in relation to claim 1. Snipp does not teach selection of a printing device by a local print system component. Accordingly, claim 11 is patentable for this reason as stated above in relation to claim 1.

Claims 12-19 are dependent on claim 11, comprise all the limitations thereof and are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claims 1 and 11.

Claim 20, as amended, comprises the element of "automatically selecting at least one of said plurality of printing devices." This element is not taught in Snipp, as discussed above in relation to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 20, as amended, is believed to be patentable for the same reasons as stated above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 21 is dependent on claim 20, comprise all the limitations thereof and is believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claims 1, 11 and 20.

Appl. No. 09/683,667  
Amdt. dated March 13, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2005

The examiner has rejected claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495) (hereinafter Snipp) in view of Hower, Jr. et al (US Patent 5,467,434) (hereinafter Hower) and further in view of H.A.M. Van Oijen (US Patent 5,918,988) (hereinafter HAM). Claims 22, 23 and 25 have been amended to more particularly point out specific aspects of embodiments of the present invention, similarly to claim 1. Claim 24 has been canceled.

Claim 22, as amended, comprises the element of "a printer selector for comparing printer data with said print task requirement and for selecting at least one of said plurality of printers based on said comparing." This element is not taught in Snipp, Hower or HAM or any combination thereof. None of these references disclose a method for non-user selection of a printing device. Accordingly, claim 22, as amended, is believed to be patentable.

Claim 23, as amended, comprises the element of "selecting at least one of said printers capable of printing said print task;" This element is not taught in Snipp, Hower or HAM or any combination thereof. None of these references disclose a method for non-user selection of a printing device. Accordingly, claim 23, as amended, is believed to be patentable.

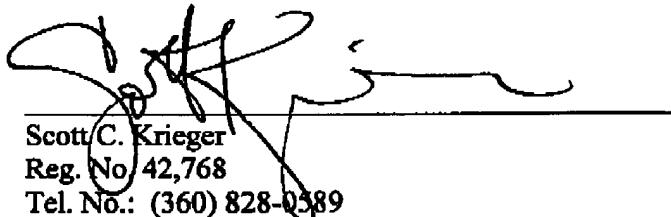
Claim 24 is hereby canceled.

Claim 25, as amended, comprises the element of "selecting at least one of said printers capable of printing said print task;" This element is not taught in Snipp, Hower or HAM or any combination thereof. None of these references disclose a method for non-user selection of a printing device. Accordingly, claim 25, as amended, is believed to be patentable.

Appl. No. 09/683,667  
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Reply to Office action of December 13, 2005

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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